

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action mailed on November 17, 2010, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 5-10 were pending in the present application prior to this amendment. Claims 6 and 8-10 are now pending in the present application; among them, claims 6 and 8 are independent claims. Claims 6, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 5 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

The examiner's attention is respectfully directed to claims 6 and 8 that now recite that "an alarm information transmitting unit does not transmit the output information and transmits alarm information to the output device if the matching unit determines as the result of the matching that the output information received from the information processing terminal matches the output prohibited information or does not match the output permitted information". These features are described in step S46 in FIG. 14 and step S67 in FIG. 17. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

In the office action (page 4), claims 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0107771 A1 (Shibata) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,388 B1 (Kojima), and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0154395 (Miura).

As required in the presently amended claims, in the output information management system of the present invention, the server first determines whether or not the information received from the information processing terminal is the output prohibited information. Then, if the information received is the output prohibited information, the information is not transmitted to the output device, but the alarm information indicating that the information cannot be outputted is transmitted to the

output device, instead. In addition, if the information received is not the output prohibited information, the server transmits it to the output device to be outputted on the paper media, and the information is stored in the server or the storage server in association with the ID information.

First, this securely prevents the output prohibited information from being outputted. Further, since the output prohibited information is not transmitted to the output device, it is not necessary to store such output prohibited information in association with the ID information. Therefore, the processing of storing the output prohibited information can be omitted, and it is possible to avoid unnecessary processing and unnecessary consumption of the storage capacity of the database. On the other hand, the information transmitted to the output device to be outputted on the paper media are all stored in association with the ID information. Therefore, if the information not prohibited to be outputted is outputted because the information in the output determining information database is incorrect or insufficient, or if a person having a proper authority illegally outputs the output prohibited information, for example, it is possible to track the person who outputted such information, based on the information stored in the output information database.

In contrast, Shibata discloses in [0052] that the image data is not processed for printing and a user ID error display may be shown on the display unit, if the user ID(Y) input does not match the user ID(X) embedded in the image data. However, Shibata merely teaches showing the error message on the display, and fails to teach or suggest transmitting the alarm information to the output device.

In the presently claimed application, the output information is transmitted to the output device to be outputted on the paper media and is also stored in the server in association with the ID information if the output information is not the output prohibited information, and the output information is not transmitted to the output device but the alarm information is transmitted to the output device, instead, if the output information is the output prohibited information. These features cannot be reached by a skilled person based on the references Shibata, Kojima and Miura.

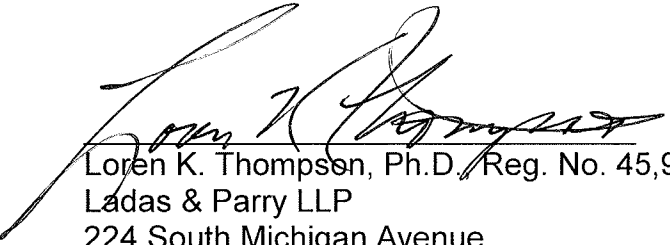
Therefore, Shibata, Kojima and Miura cannot support an obviousness rejection because Shibata, Kojima and Miura, in whole or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the limitations required in the presently claimed application. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 8-10, pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter.

This response is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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